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QUESTION OF THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General prepared in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/18

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Introduction

1. At its forty-seventh session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1990/18, having taken note with interest of the report on the Global Consultation on the Realization of the Rights to Development as a Human Right (E/CN.4/1990/9). The Commission requested the Secretary-General to transmit this report to all Governments, United Nations organs, the General Assembly at its special session on international economic co-operation to be held in April 1990, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole on the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Committee on Development Planning at its twenty-sixth session and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental, governmental and concerned non-governmental organizations with a view to obtaining concrete comments and proposals for further international and national action aimed at strengthening the existing, or creating possible new mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, taking into account the ideas contained in chapter VII of the report and the views expressed on the issue during the debate at the forty-sixth session of the Commission, including the creation of a group of experts. It further requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its forty-seventh session, a comprehensive report containing the comments and proposals referred to above, as well as information on the measures taken and suggestions made for the continuing implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development within the United Nations system. The present report was prepared pursuant to this request.

2. Preparatory to the present report, and in accordance with the mandate provided by Commission resolution 1990/18, operative paragraph 3, the Secretary-General, by a note verbale and letter dated 12 October 1990, transmitted the report on the global consultation to all Governments and the bodies and organizations mentioned in that paragraph of resolution 1990/18.

3. As at 17 January 1991, the Secretary-General had received substantive replies from the Governments of Fiji and Sweden. Comments have also been transmitted by the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies: United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and Department for Public Information in the Secretariat of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme, International Labour Office, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations World Food Council and World Food Programme. These replies are contained in chapters I and II of the present report.

4. Further to the Secretary-General's request for comments and information on the subject-matter, the following non-governmental organizations submitted comments: Four Directions Council, Inter-Parliamentary Union, International Planned Parenthood Federation, World Muslim Congress and World Organization against Torture. These replies are contained in chapter III of the present report.

5. Any additional comments which are received by the Secretary-General will be submitted in addenda to this report.

CHAPTER I. COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

FIJI

[13 December 1990]
[Original: English]

6. The criteria suggested in the report's conclusions for measuring progress is complicated and intrusive. It also highlights the problem in giving legal effect to the concept of the right to development. As the definition of the right is all-encompassing, it overlaps with general concepts of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Legislating the right to development would be counterproductive as it would be difficult if not impossible to enforce.

7. Because of the difficulty in characterizing the right to development as a legal right, it would be practical and realistic to term it a social right, the implementation of which should perhaps be seen in the context of initiatives undertaken by individual Governments.

8. Furthermore, the detail of the criteria proposed would make it unrealistic to expect the great majority of States to have the resources to provide such detailed statistics. Far better that the criteria for measuring progress were streamlined into a few broad categories such as political, social, economic and cultural concerns. In this regard, it is indeed logical to consider and emphasize participation as playing a key role in the realization of the right to development, as reflected in the report.

9. The criticism of the decision-making process with regard to the international economic system is well founded. The equitable distribution of economic resources and sharing of economic and political power between north and south, requires the intrinsic process of dialogue and consultation, otherwise the plight of an overwhelming majority of people threatens global stability in the long term. This, however, can only be done in a manner that does not ruin the economies of developed States as they continue to be the best means by which the underdeveloped States can be assisted. For instance, Governments in the developed world may wish to consider it a challenge to persuade their electorates to accept a particular standard of living which would allow them to extend some of the benefits to the developing and underdeveloped States. On their part, developing and underdeveloped States may represent opportunities in the way of new markets.

10. The recommendations for action both by States and in an international context appear sound. However, ultimately it will depend on the will, commitment and resources of individual Governments to translate them into action.

SWEDEN

[19 December 1990]
[Original: English]

11. As was stated in the Commission on Human Rights in an intervention by the Swedish delegation on 12 February 1990 several of the criteria which were underlined in the global consultation correspond well to the goals of the Swedish development assistance. The promotion of democracy and human rights is strongly emphasized in Sweden's development co-operation.

12. The report from the consultation stresses the importance of the right to effective participation in all aspects of development and in all stages of the decision-making process as well as the importance of respect for human rights in all development strategies. This is fully in line with Swedish development policy. The human person is the central subject of human rights. All our efforts - in this as well as in other contexts - should be directed towards the full enjoyment for all of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

13. The Swedish Government finds especially important the recommendations for international action contained in paragraphs 189 and 190 of the report from the global consultation, namely that the existing United Nations machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights must be further strengthened and additional resources provided to the Centre for Human Rights and that all United Nations activities related to the development process should have explicit guidelines, appraisal criteria, and priorities based upon the realization of human rights, including human rights impact assessments.

14. The Swedish Governments doubts, however, that the setting up of a special committee of independent experts to report on the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development would be an effective means to achieve these purposes. It is in our view vital that the various existing United Nations organs which deal with development take into account the recommendations made in the report from the global consultation.

CHAPTER II. COMMENTS FROM UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

A. United Nations bodies

UNITED NATIONS CENTRE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

[20 December 1990]
[Original: English]

15. Transnational corporations are a powerful force in the world economy and can make important contributions to the economic and social development of the developing world by transferring capital, technology, skills and other important resources to those areas. This has been recognized by developing countries which increasingly are looking for ways of attracting foreign direct investment flows into their economies.

16. However, recent trends in foreign direct investment flows show an increasing concentration of FDI flows among the triad countries at the expense of foreign investment to developing countries which for years now has stagnated and concentrated in a handful of relatively advanced countries.

17. It is therefore imperative that the world community addresses the emerging economic and geopolitical pattern which threatens to split the industrialized and developing worlds into two isolated blocs. This requires conscious policy steps to encourage economic linkages between developed and developing nations, otherwise, the large majority of the world population could be condemned to a permanent state of underdevelopment which is ethically unacceptable.

18. Transnational corporations could be a prime vehicle for functional economic and social integration between the developed and the developing worlds and play a constructive linking role if guided by appropriate international instruments and mechanisms. Thus, international mechanisms must address both Government and private business responsibilities concerning the right to development.

19. This principle already exists in the United Nations Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations. The Code which is now reaching its final stages towards conclusion, contains important provisions already accepted ad referendum, aimed at creating a new international corporate culture by combining the profit-making function of transnational corporations with the development function. This is done by developing a number of concepts, such as the concept of good international corporate conduct (this notion is well accepted by corporations in their home countries) whereby transnational corporations would be expected to comply with a number of important international principles and standards in their operations in developing countries. These involve primarily, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms (including the right to development); respect for national sovereignty over natural resources; observance of the socio-cultural values and the principle of adherence to economic goals and objectives, policies and priorities (which in turn, encompasses a number of specific duties of co-operation with respect to activities affecting critical areas of a country's economy). These standards are further elaborated in provisions on

environment and consumer protection, employment and labour relations; transfer pricing, restrictive business practices and taxation; disclosure of information and transfer of technology.

20. In this manner, the Code of Conduct is expected to maximize the beneficial contributions that foreign direct investment can make to the development of their host countries by, for example, taking positive steps towards the transference of technology and management skills through their use of local personnel and through linkages with local enterprises to promote the national entrepreneurial drive.

21. In the critical area of environment and development, in addition to the general standards contained in the overall Code of Conduct, the Centre has developed a set of Criteria for sustainable development management. These were endorsed by the Commission on Transnational Corporations in April 1990.

22. The Criteria are a collection of 14 mind-setting ideas that aim at encouraging transnational corporations to take environmental and developmental considerations in their investment decisions. Among other issues, the Criteria require that transnational corporations management carry out their business decisions in a manner compatible with the rights of local people and nature. While the Criteria are primarily addressed at transnational corporations management, they could be used by Governments for establishing industrial development policies and as a measure for how they should expect investing corporations to behave with regard to the use of human and natural resources in developing countries.

23. Thus, it is important that any national or international action aimed at promoting the right to development explicitly involves transnational corporations and calls upon them to participate actively in this process. This could be done in a number of ways:

(a) First, by ensuring that new instruments adopted to give effect to the right to development include a cross-reference to the Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations, the Criteria and any other similar standard-setting instrument addressing the role of TNCs in development;

(b) Second, the Commission on Human Rights could endorse the Code and the Criteria and request that member Government, distribute them to their ministries of development, economy, industry, environment, etc., to use them as guidelines in their standard-setting policies for local and foreign enterprises;

(c) Third, specific standards contained in the Code or the Criteria could be brought to bear in concrete follow-up and monitoring actions on the right to development;

(d) Fourth, interagency co-operation in this area should be strengthened. Such co-operation could consist of regular exchange of information, consultation and possibly extend to joint projects;

(e) Lastly, I should like to refer to a related issue which has come up in recent research conducted by the Centre. Among those who are the least able to enjoy the right to development in developing countries are women and indigenous peoples. Both women and indigenous peoples are marginalized in

developing countries. These issues need to be addressed in connection with the right to development as involving both economic and political rights. Moreover, while there is a permanent Commission to deal with the question of women, indigenous questions, including their right to exist, requires more institutionalized attention and interagency co-operation. The United Nations Development Programme should also be made more sensitive to the right to development of indigenous peoples. this is particularly important where there is sometimes a conflict between the right to development of developing countries and the right to survival of indigenous peoples. The indigenous peoples' right to development should be taken up also by the Conference on the Environment and Development in 1992. The traditional development strategy of indigenous peoples has been that of sustainable development. It is therefore ironic that they have been left out of the preparatory work and will in all likelihood be left off the agenda. Consequently, the United Nations runs the risk of recommending solutions to environmental problems which will deny indigenous peoples their right to development because it has not looked closely enough at indigenous sustainable development strategies to see how they could be incorporated in the global solution.

(The Centre transmitted the Draft Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations contained in E/1990/94 and Criteria for Sustainable Development Management. Both documents are available for consultation in the Centre for Human Rights).

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

[4 December 1990]
[Original: English]

24. A healthy environment should be considered a human right since without it, it is not possible to live in dignity as a human being. Since environmental conditions, including the state of natural resources of land, freshwater, forests and coastal areas and seas, determine the livelihood earning capacities of people, it is vital that private and public efforts for environmental rehabilitation and control of environmental degradation are encouraged as part of the advancement of the human right to development. Government policies and programmes aimed at advancement of social well-being and economic development need to integrate environmental protection and improvement objectives in their design and implementation.

25. When land degradation, depletion of forests and vegetation cover, desertification, reduced access even to minimum necessary quantities of freshwater, inadequate access to energy for cooking and heating, excessive levels of air pollution, water pollution and marine pollution, high health risks entailed by hazardous or toxic substances and depletion of the ozone layer, make it impossible for people to live in dignity, or in good health or in peace, the very fabric of human society is severely strained. Thus action for political settlement of conflicts between groups, regions or States and action for social and economic development and improvement of the quality of life need to be cognizant of the environmental basis of human well-being.

26. Monitoring of social and economic development and of progress in the attainment of human rights need to ascertain the extent of human deprivation stemming from environmental degradation on one hand and the progress achieved on the other hand in advancing human well-being through improvement of the natural and man-made environment.

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

[5 December 1990]
[Original: English]

27. The Department's main comment on the recommendations raised in Chapter VII of the report on the "Question of the realization of the right to development: global consultation on the right to development as a human right" pertains to the inadequacy of attention given to concrete national and international level recommendations for tackling the issue of poverty in both developed and developing countries. Paragraph 183, p. 47, of the "Recommendations for Action" recommends that "particular attention should be paid to ensuring access to justice of the extremely poor and other vulnerable or disadvantaged groups". Whilst accepting these recommendations as sound and useful, it is nevertheless inadequate for the attainment of development rights for the poor. Access to productive employment, education, health, shelter, clean water and sanitation is also necessary to be specified in the recommendations for "Action by States". Participatory development planning should prove to have greater sensitivity to the needs of the poor by reflecting social needs in project selection and resource allocation, though within the fiscal and other constraints of plan formulation.

28. On the "International Action" level, the recommendations of chapter VII have not adequately addressed the conclusion of paragraph 166, p. 44, namely that "the growing burden of indebtedness and structural adjustment falls heaviest on the poorest and weakest sectors of society and has clear human rights implications". The issue of what measures at international level should be undertaken to ameliorate such burdens of adjustment requires further concrete recommendations.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION IN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

[31 December 1990]
[Original: English]

29. The Department of Public Information, which has primary responsibility for information activities, continues to co-ordinate public information activities of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and, in its responsibility as secretariat to the Joint United Nations Information Committee, to promote system-wide information activities in this regard.

30. In pursuance of its varied mandates, the Department carries out a co-ordinated multi-media approach to ensure the effective coverage of human rights activities as well as world-wide distribution of relevant information materials to specific audiences. This is done directly and through the 67 United Nations information centres and services around the world.

31. Among its numerous publications in 1990 were reprints of the Declaration on the Right to Development in French and Spanish and new productions in Arabic, Chinese and Russian. These are now being widely distributed. Other relevant human rights instruments continue to be produced for global dissemination.

32. In keeping with the aims of the Declaration, the Department's activities continue to reflect United Nations efforts to promote economic, social, cultural and political rights. These activities, among others, are related to: women and their role in society; specific economic and social development issues; African recovery and development; efforts against the policies and practices of apartheid, the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine; issues concerning various population groups; and human rights.

B. Specialized Agencies

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

[4 December 1990]
[Original: English]

33. The International Labour Office took part in the Global Consultation, and submitted a paper entitled "The International Labour Organisation and the Right to Development" (HR/RD/1990/CONF.7). Information on ILO action in various fields having a bearing on the subject under consideration was supplied, as well as on suggested criteria and procedures to monitor progress in the realization of the right to development.

34. The ILO notes with interest that the conclusions and recommendations of the Global Consultation meet the views and concerns of the ILO in several major respects. These include: respect for basic freedoms and human rights; the importance of participation in development; the need to take into account the social and human dimensions of development strategies; the role of the human rights instruments as a basis for development criteria, in particular those relating to conditions of work and life; and a call for ratification of the principal human rights instruments including the relevant ILO Conventions, and for respect of those instruments by United Nations bodies and agencies, particularly financial and trade institutions. The ILO would also be glad to co-operate in the design of indicators of progress and in a programme of development education, as recommended by the Global Consultation.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

[12 December 1990]
[Original: French]

35. Most UNESCO activities are intended as an adequate response to the problems impeding implementation of the right to development.

36. Many UNESCO standards and documents refer to the right to development as a human right. For example, article 3 of the Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice, adopted by the General Conference at its twentieth session, on 27 November 1978, reads:

> "Any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, ethnic or national origin or religious intolerance motivated by racist considerations, which destroys or compromises the sovereign equality of States and the right of peoples to self-determination, or which limits in an arbitrary or discriminatory manner the right of every human being and group to full development is incompatible with the requirements of an international order which is just and guarantees respect for human rights; the right to full development implies equal access to the means of personal and collective advancement and fulfilment in a climate of respect for the values of civilizations and cultures, both national and world-wide."

37. Moreover, the last preambular paragraph of the Organization's Constitution states that UNESCO was created "for the purpose of advancing, through the educational and scientific and cultural relations of the peoples of the world, the objectives of international peace and of the common welfare of mankind for which the United Nations Organization was established and which its Charter proclaims".

38. UNESCO's experience with development problems stems from the implementation of its mandate in the areas of education, science, culture, communication and information. The Organization would thus like to recall the importance in any development process of the components which come directly under its own mandate, so as to gain acceptance of a concept of development which takes account of the cultural dimension and makes personal advancement and fulfilment the objective of the entire process.

39. The Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, adopted in 1981, recognized the essential contribution of education to development conceived as an integrated process whose social, cultural and economic components must be given equal weight. In this connection, it is worth remembering that when proclaiming International Literacy Year, the General Assembly of the United Nations entrusted to UNESCO the organization of the Year, one of the objectives of which was to strengthen co-operation among the Member States and with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the campaign against illiteracy.

40. A successful example of inter-agency co-operation was the World Conference on Education for All - meeting basic educational needs, held at Jomtien, Thailand, from 5 to 9 March 1990. The Conference had been jointly convened and sponsored by the World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP and UNESCO. To prepare for and organize the Conference, the four Organizations had established and financed an inter-agency commission with an executive committee and a small secretariat.

41. In addition, 18 Governments and organizations had joined the initiative as sponsors or associate sponsors, giving financial, material and intellectual support. That partnership of governmental departments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations was an important feature of the initiative in question.

42. Although that co-operation had initially been centred upon the World Conference, it was unanimously recognized at Jomtien that such co-operation should continue until the basic educational needs of all children, young people and adults were effectively satisfied in all the countries of the world. UNESCO consequently thought that the four institutions mentioned above should be closely associated with the preparation and implementation of educational programmes, especially in the framework of the activities set forth in paragraph 199 of document E/CN.4/1990/9/Rev.1.

43. UNESCO is in a position to make an essential contribution to the preparation of the international strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, in the areas of its terms of reference. An outline of UNESCO activities is given in the annexed document: "UNESCO and the Least Developed Countries" (BAO-90-WS-1).

44. In response to paragraph 3 of resolution 1990/18 of the Commission on Human Rights, on the right to development, UNESCO would suggest that inter-agency collaboration be strengthened and co-ordination machinery established so that programmes could be jointly prepared and implemented in the following areas:

(a) The promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development;

(b) The campaign against discrimination, racism and apartheid;

(c) The participation of women;

(d) The rights of indigenous peoples; and

(e) Vulnerable groups.

45. UNESCO considers that, to make best use of the resources of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, there should be genuine co-operation at all levels so that each institution can make an effective contribution in the areas of its competence. To achieve these ends, the establishment of co-ordination mechanisms, such as the Inter-agency Commission mentioned above (see para. 40), could be a more useful and less expensive solution than establishing a group of experts.

46. It is worth recalling that UNESCO has already invited the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and the Centre against Apartheid to carry out jointly some of the activities provided for in the framework of the special project entitled: The Establishment in South Africa of an Egalitarian, Non-racial Society, Free from Apartheid and Reconciled with Itself. Thus, the Centre for Human Rights has agreed to give technical and financial support to the following activities provided for in the framework of the said special project:

(a) Working group on the access of Africans to science and technology (Porto Novo, Benin, September 1991);

(b) Workshop on human rights in South Africa (Banjul, Gambia, April 1991);

(c) Establishment of a South Africa unit in the Documentation Centre of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; and

(d) Consultation on religions and apartheid (to be held, in principle, at Geneva in the third quarter of 1991).

47. Lastly, UNESCO and the International Labour Organisation have considered the possibility of co-operating in the preparation and implementation of a joint programme concerning the rights of indigenous peoples.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

[7 December 1990]
[Original: English]

WHO policies

48. The spirit of the Declaration on the Right to Development permeates the policies and all the work that the World Health Organization undertakes in co-operation with its Member States. This is because health is an integral part of development and has been so recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 34/58. The international community has also subscribed in General Assembly resolution 36/43 to achieving the social goal of health for all by the year 2000 which was adopted by the World Health Assembly in 1981. The key to achieving this goal is primary health care.

49. The major characteristic of primary health care is that it is a system of participatory care, not subsidized or free-service care delivered from the top down. It requires the involvement of Governments and of politicans at all levels, and most important, of people from all walks of life, a fundamental principle of development which is an underlying theme in the Declaration. In primary health care, the stress is on protection and health promotion. The World Health Assembly is particulrly concerned that the international community at large understands what primary health care is - that it is not a cheap, second-rate service, but the most cost-effective way of achieving health and of ensuring that people everywhere realize their basic human right to health and well-being. Therefore the World Health Assembly has requested the Director-General to sensitize the international community to the possibility of achieving agreement on health and economic priorities, including the involvement of leaders at the highest political level, a request that he has already begun to implement.

New initiatives

50. Who has taken a number of initiatives in recent years which respond to the spirit of Article 4.2 of the Declaration which calls for sustained action to promote rapid development of the developing countries. Among these initiatives is a concerted country-centred strategy aimed at supporting

countries to overcome the obstacles to the acceleration and implementation of primary health care, with particular emphasis on countries and peoples in greatest need. The group defined as "in greatest need" has poor socio-economic and health indicators. It includes a great majority of the least developed countries. But it also includes large numbers of people still living in conditions of extreme poverty and suffering high mortality, ill-health and under-nutrition, even within countries which may have better aggregated health indicators. In co-operation with its Member States and with bilateral and multilateral development co-operation agencies, WHO is pursuing a programme aimed at intensified technical and economic support and in particular, co-operation in planning and rationalizing the financing of health care. In this way it is expected that the most efficient use will be made of available resources within countries and within the Organization itself, in order to promote the effective implementation of primary health care.

51. A second area to which the Organization is devoting considerable attention is the relationship between environment and health and its implication for sustainable development. All around us is the evidence of the deleterious effects on health of environmental pollution, of the dumping of toxic industrial wastes and the indiscriminate use of pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture. To solve this problem, however, requires concerted and collaborative action among many individuals and agencies. Who in its role as the international technical authority on the effect on human health of environmental conditions, is taking steps to assess the implications and consequences for human health of man-made environmental changes. A WHO Commission on Health and the Environment under the Chairmanship of Mme Simone Veil is currently assisting the Organization in analyzing and confronting this problem and in finding the most effective solutions. A matter of particular concern is the risk of accidents in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as occurred at Chernobyl, USSR, on 26 April 1986. An important health and development problem is posed wherever nuclear power is used to produce energy, in both developed and developing countries. In co-operation with the Soviet authorities an International Centre for Radiation Health is being established at Obninsk to learn from Chernobyl and to make this knowledge and how to use it, widely available.

52. Another area which is of concern and which directly affects the right to development is nutrition. Under-nourished or malnourished human beings are unable to realize their full potential and to contribute effectively to development efforts. Despite agricultural gains and new health technology there is still evidence of widespread malnutrition and improper nutritional practices. Malnutrition in childhood can have lifelong effects. It is essential both to assure the availability of a range of foods in sufficient quantities in all countries and at the same time to educate people, even where there is abundance of food, in sound dietary habits in order to ensure the right nutritiional balance. WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations are convening an international conference on nutrition in December 1992 which will alert the internatioal community tothe true situation with regard to nutrition and dietary habits and suggest appropriate ways of dealing with existing problems.

53. A fourth area concerns an integrated approach to the control of diseases, particularly in countries which lack resources. When various disease control activities are combined there can be a synergistic effect. This applies in particular to many of the tropical diseases which affect so many people. A prime example is malaria. The disease is endemic in some 100 countries and about 40 per cent of the world's population is at risk of contracting the disease, especially farming poulations and people where new development projects are being implemented without proper attention to the risk posed to non-immune persons. Moreover, the malaria parasite has developed resistance to the drug of choice, chloroquin. In co-operation with the Member States affected, WHO is taking steps to strengthen health infrastructure and to provide both preventive and curative approaches to combatting malaria. In West Africica there are 18 million people infected with onchocerciasis. Aerial spraying of the larva-breeding sites has already ensured that 4 million children are no longer at risk of losing their sight. It has also become possible to recommence agricultural development activities in the fertile Upper Volta River Basin.

54. AIDS is becoming one of the most serious threats to human existence. At least 8 million people may currently be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus. More than half of these will develop AIDS within 10 years and most will die. WHO's Global Programme on AIDS, which has involved practically all entities of the United Nations in the struggle to combat this dread disease, is focusing in particular at this time, on the increasing rate of infection among women of child-bearing age, and the risk of transmission from mother to unborn child, or to the child during the process of birth. The World Health Assembly in May 1990 took action to promote an appropriate response to the dangers that women face, focusing on actions that countries can take. At the same time, in co-operation with all concerned, including the Centre for Human Rights, the Organization seeks ways and means of confronting discriminatory practices directed against HIV-infected people or those persons suffering from AIDS.

55. The spread of drug abuse, especially among young people, is a threat to productive life. There is also a devastating link between HIV transmission among injecting drug users and the spread of AIDS. WHO has been very active, particularly in the area of reducing the demand for drugs, which is an indispensable aspect of the struggle against illicit trafficking in and use of psycho-active substances. On 26 June 1990, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Director-General of WHO established a new programme that will deal with all aspects of substance abuse control.

Preventing unnecessary suffering and death

56. The global trends in such critical indicators as infant mortality and life expectancy at birth are improving. For example, about three to four years have been added to life expectancy which is globally now about 61.5 years and the number of children who die in infancy has been reduced to about 15 per thousand in the developed countries and 79 per thousand in the developing world. Some 60 per cent of the children in the developing countries who reach their first birthday have been immunized against the major childhood diseases, compared with fewer than 5 per cent in 1974. But we still

have a long way to go in order to ensure that all people will achieve a state of health which will permit them to lead socially and economically productive lives. A great concern is the fact that some 500,000 women in the developing world die each year as a result of giving birth. This is unnecessary and is totally unacceptable. Not only are the mothers' lives sacrificed but the family is left without her support, so also the community, the agricultural sector and all the other social sectors, particularly health, in which women are active. Hence the development of a programme on Safe Motherhood which is supported by other United Nations organizations such as the World Bank and UNFPA which will help developing countries to reduce maternal mortality rates by at least half. Similarly with other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system WHO is strengthening its Expanded Programme on Immunization and activities for the control of diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections and other communicable diseases which kill young children. A combination of these efforts to improve maternal and child health care should also have a salutary effect on population growth.

57. A substantial amount of suffering and a number of deaths among the adult population can be prevented if they would adopt healthy lifestyles. This is particularly so in regard to dietary habits, reducing alcohol consumption to moderate levels and reducing the use of tobacco, all of which contribute to heart diseases and cancer. Cardiovascular diseases claim 12 million lives each year and cancer 4.8 million. It is therefore worthy of repeating that much of the suffering, disease and premature death afflicting the world today is from preventable causes. This is why WHO is continuing to encourage its Member States to invest in peoples' health through the most cost-effective means possible. Many people will still have to be treated or cured of disease, but the vast majority can live free of disease with the proper investment in preventable measures. Wise investment in health provides the benefit of a strong and alert population able to contribute effectively to national development.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

[7 January 1991]
[Original: English]

58. The follow-up programme of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 1979 which emphasizes poverty-oriented rural development, addresses broad issues and makes related recommendations for action similar to those addressed in the Secretary-General's report. The rights of the rural poor, particularly with regard to improved access to land and water, and rights to employment and just wages also feature prominently in the implementation of this programme by agencies of the United Nations.

59. It is envisaged that the ongoing inter-agency review of the WCARRD follow-up programme, which will be discussed at the 19th meeting of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development in May 1991 and the Conference of FAO in November 1991, will contain proposals for refocussing and revitalizing both FAO's own follow-up programme and those jointly implemented with other members of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development. It is anticipated that greater attention will be given to formulating policies which promote the rights of

the rural poor to adequate productive resources and employment as well as social services and democratic institutions in order to bring about a substantial improvement in livelihoods and human development. FAO will also continue to provide assistance to countries in setting up systems to monitor and evaluate progress in implementing policies and programmes in this area.

60. The FAO Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development also explicitly addresses human rights issues and prescribes actions designed to enhance rural women's civic, legal and economic rights.

61. In the area of food security, FAO's World Food Security Compact, adopted by the FAO Conference in 1985, continues to provide a comprehensive framework of moral commitments for governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals, with the chief aim of ensuring that all people at all times are in a position to produce or procure the basic food they need. To this end, FAO is assisting interested developing countries in drawing up comprehensive national food security policies and programmes. Such policies and programmes are, in particular, based on the broadened concept of food security, first adopted by the FAO Conference in 1983, which emphasizes the three pillars of ensuring the adequacy of food supplies, the stability of flows of supplies and access to food, especially by the poor.

C. Other United Nations organizations

WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

[27 November 1990]
[Original: English]

62. The Council fully agrees with the report's observation that the international community appears to be moving gradually towards the concept of the general well-being of the individual, and that the Declaration on the Right to Development was an important step towards a complete definition of the overall concept of human rights (paragraph 47). It is indeed impossible to speak in terms of human dignity when thinking of the millions of people living below the poverty line, suffering illness and hunger, or in the process of losing that most fundamental of all rights, the right of life.

63. The eradication of hunger and poverty has been the major concern of the World Food Council since 1974. Unfortunately, the world has not yet succeeded in reaching that elusive goal. Concrete and agreed objectives towards its achievement are now emerging, however, and the international community appears to be moving towards their implementation. The Council is particularly encouraged that the four hunger-reduction goals for the 1990s which were formulated by the World Food Council in 1989 have been included in the text of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (A/49/41, 11 October 1990, para. 86).

64. The report of the Global Consultation emphasizes the desirability of formulating criteria for measuring progress in the realization of the right to development. The Council agrees that this is important for the success of future efforts to implement that right (para. 171), but would stress that the criteria should be simple and straightforward and that overlap with ongoing monitoring work should be avoided.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

[23 November 1990]
[Original: English]

Food aid and the right to development

Introduction

65. The General Assembly's Declaration on the Right to Development (General Assembly resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986) recognizes the fact that "development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom". The resolution goes on to define the right to development as "an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized". Special emphasis is also placed on the right of peoples to self-determination.

66. The connection between food aid and the right to development assumes greater clarity when the right to food is placed in its proper context as the most fundamental of all human rights, and a pre-condition to development. By providing food as relief during emergencies or as a resource in support of development activities, WFP promotes, in a concrete way, the achievement of the right to food and contributes toward laying the foundations on the basis of which the goals envisaged in the Declaration on the Right to Development can be achieved. The right to development is seriously in jeopardy whenever the right to food cannot be fulfilled.

67. In this regard the Bellagio Declaration on Overcoming Hunger in the 1990s has defined goals achievable by the year 2000 as:

(a) Elimination of deaths from famine;

(b) Ending hunger in half of the poorest households;

(c) Cutting in half malnutrition of mothers and children;

(d) Eradicating vitamin A and iodine deficiencies.

68. Against this background the main point at issue for WFP is how food aid can be used to accelerate development and self-reliance by removing the obstacles that prevent nations and peoples from exercising the right to development. Food aid is also viewed by WFP as contributing to human development since the rations provided, which are always directed to the poor, alleviate the serious effect of under-nourishment on human development.

Food security

69. Attainment of food security has emerged as a major objective in the context of structural adjustment programmes, particularly in Africa. Ensuring food security entails meeting two conditions: providing adequate food

supplies through domestic production or imports; and helping poor households to acquire the food they need, either by growing it themselves or by enabling them to have the income to buy it. The World Bank, in its report on The Challenge of Hunger in Africa, estimates that about a quarter of Africa's population - more than 100 million people - do not consume enough food to allow an active working life. Many do not obtain enough energy from their diets to prevent serious health risks or stunted growth. Even more suffer in years when crops fail and food prices rise.

70. In any country, the food insecure comprise different groups. Cost-effective programmes to improve food security must be tailored to the needs and circumstances of each group.

71. Attaining sustainable food security should not depend on food aid. On the other hand, food aid can be an effective resource in attaining sustainable food security. The programmes and projects that contribute to food security will vary from country to country depending on the causes of food insecurity. WFP has joined forces with the World Bank and FAO and other donor countries and aid agencies to conduct a series of pilot studies in selected African countries to design national food security programmes.

Agricultural and rural development

72. WFP supports 175 agricultural and rural development projects with $2.08 billion of assistance. The way in which WFP food aid is used differs with the various types of agricultural and rural development projects.

Agricultural production

73. Projects to increase agricultural production, including land clearing, forestry and land rehabilitation, account for approximately half of WFP's development activities. In these projects, food aid is typically used either as food-for-work to fund labour-intensive activities, or as an incentive to encourage participation by local farmers or communities in the project activities or to compensate them for the time they invest in the project.

Rural infrastructure

74. A major problem in rural areas is the lack of physical infrastructure, such as roads to transport goods to market, water systems for personal use and agricultural production, and community facilities such as schools, health-care centres and social centres. Food aid can help construct these facilities through food-for-work schemes.

Settlement projects

75. Land settlement projects, in which large numbers of farm families bring new land into production, account for some 6 per cent of WFP's development activities. Food assistance tides settlers over the initial settlement period until at least the first harvest, or self-sufficiency in food production, is reached. Food aid can also be used as food-for-work to construct agricultural infrastructure, public amenities and civil works.

Food reserves

76. Support to national food reserves, to national market restructuring or to national price stabilization activities form a small but important part of WFP assistance for development. In the case of food reserves, the objective is to improve the country's capacity to cope with bad harvests or natural disasters by ensuring a security stock of staple foods for distribution at such times.

77. In market restructuring or price stabilization projects, food aid is made available to Governments for distribution, usually sale, when food prices are high. The proceeds normally are used to purchase local products at guaranteed prices after harvest in order to replenish the reserve. Such projects help prevent excessive price fluctuations of staple foods, which, if unchecked, could discourage local production (through producer prices falling too low immediately after harvest) or cause excessive hardship to consumers (because retail prices rise to high levels immediately prior to harvest).

Human resource development projects

78. More and more the key role of population quality as a vital determinant in economic growth has been recognized. Nowhere is this more evident than in agriculture, where it is clear that the quality of land is not the determinant of whether the tiller of the soil is poor or not. Far more important than the quality of the land is the skill of the farmer and his knowledge about how to obtain the most productive return.

79. WFP-assisted human resource development projects consist primarily of feeding vulnerable groups (mothers, infants, pre-school children) and support for education (primary and secondary schools) and training. WFP currently assists 85 human resource development projects with an aggregate value of $1.09 billion, mainly projects for mothers and pre-school and primary school children.

80. Obviously the effectiveness of WFP food aid for health and education depends crucially on the recipient country's efforts to improve basic services in these areas. The commitment of Governments and the seriousness of their efforts is thus a major factor in determining whether to begin or continue WFP support for human resource development programmes.

81. While feeding programmes of this type are necessarily a form of current consumption, they are also an investment whose benefits, though not easy to measure, are nevertheless real and, indeed, vital in the long-term for sustained economic growth.

Vulnerable group feeding

82. In vulnerable group feeding projects, the food aid commodities provide a dietary supplement or (more rarely) a nutrition supplement and encourage greater and more regular attendance at mother and child health centres. The food aid constitutes a transfer of income to households or individuals (because the food is in addition to existing income sources of the household or individual). The food aid may also provide budgetary support to the government, allowing it to expand social programmes, including vulnerable group health and nutrition programmes.

School feeding

83. Nearly a fifth of WFP-supported ongoing developing projects, with assistance valued at $586 million, supports education, mostly at the primary school level. In school-feeding projects, WFP food is used as an incentive to encourage regular attendance by pupils and as a dietary and income supplement to the family (which helps compensate for loss of the child's labour while attending school). It alleviates short-term hunger, thus improving children's learning ability. Sometimes WFP food also saves money in government budgets previously spent on school feeding programmes, which can be used for additional investment in education.

Women In Development (WID)

84. Women play pivotal roles both in production and consumption in developing countries. Yet, for historical and cultural reasons, their access to the factors of production and to economic and social services has often been severely limited. While money wages are controlled by male household members, wages in food are generally handled by women, who have a high propensity to use it for the benefit of all household members. Access to this resource also helps women increase their productivity and their role in decision-making in the household and local community.

85. WFP's experience in this field points to some major lessons. First, support of "women only" projects has generally not been productive or sustainable as they had served to separate women from the mainstream of economic and social activity. Second, to dichotomize women's work into productive and reproductive roles has often been to their detriment. In reality, there is a continuum in the women's roles and responsibilities and to separate them has often led to increasing women's workload.

86. One of the major forms of WFP assistance is the creation of employment opportunities during the slack agricultural seasons in community self-help or public works schemes. Women in WFP-assisted food-for-work schemes represent, on average, between one third to one half of the labour force.

87. Apart from these seasonal employment schemes, WFP also is increasingly using food aid in non-formal and formal vocational training programmes that establish a direct link between the skills imparted and labour market requirements.

Issues for the future

88. To say that the problems of hunger, poverty and underdevelopment that face developing countries are essentially structural is not to suggest any lessening in the immediate humanitarian efforts needed to meet urgent needs for food, debt-relief and increased net capital and technological transfers. But it is necessary to ensure that ways are found to meet those needs without making the underlying situation worse. On the contrary, short-term measures should increasingly be tailored toward re-enforcing long-term solutions. As far as food aid is concerned, if it is unwisely used, it can discourage increased domestic production. WFP's experience demonstrates, however, that

properly used, food aid can contribute positively to the increased food production which is a vital necessity for promoting self-reliance and, ultimately, the right to development.

89. From WFP's experience there are a number of important lessons if poverty and hunger are to be overcome and people's right to development assured. The most important may be briefly summarized:

(a) An appropriate overall economic policy framework and a commitment by Governments in developing countries to policies that explicitly address the problems of poverty, hunger and the right to development are essential;

(b) Resources are required on a much greater scale if poverty and hunger are to be eradicated speedily and sustainably. Not only will greater resource transfers be required, but a redirection of current resources - internal and external - also will be necessary;

(c) As the causes of poverty and hunger are multifarious, so too should be the measures taken for their eradication. There is no single solution - and there are no quick fixes;

(d) While increasing food production on a sustainable basis is an important, even daunting, requirement, it alone will not solve the problem of hunger and the right to food. The world food production problem is not synonymous with the world hunger problem. Ensuring access, or "entitlement", to food by the poor is vitally necessary. That can best be assured on a sustained basis by increasing their productivity, employment, incomes and assets, and hence their purchasing power. It also implies that in combating hunger, the necessary policies and programmes must extend beyond the food and agricultural sector;

(e) The poor and hungry are not a homogeneous group. There are important differences among, for example, small subsistence farmers, pastoralists, the landless and the urban poor, that affect the causes of their hunger and the coping strategies they can use to combat hunger. The poor have been skilled at devising strategies that make the best use of limited resources and opportunities to reduce their vulnerability to hunger. Resources should, therefore, build on, or reinforce, those strategies;

(f) Women play pivotal roles in food security both as producers and as key decision-makers in food consumption. Those roles should be fully recognized and supported;

(g) The pursuit of increased production and productivity must be on an environmentally sustainable basis, treating the earth now in such a way that it can meet the needs of future generations.

90. Finally, in WFP's view, any constructive measures aimed at promoting the right to development should take into account the following essential points:

(a) The right to development should be pursued from the point of view of the human person as the central subject of development. In this connection, increasing attention should be paid to promoting human resources development as the bedrock of true self-reliance;

(b) Governments should play the lead role in these efforts with the United Nations and other donor countries and organizations playing a facilitating or catalytic role;

(c) The right to development and the right to food are inextricably linked and therefore efforts to remove obstacles in the way of the latter should be consciously integrated into broader programmes and activities to promote the former;

(d) Efforts to promote effective implementation of both the procedural and substantive aspects of the General Assembly resolution (41/128) must go beyond the dissemination of information and educational and research activities.

III. COMMENTS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

FOUR DIRECTIONS COUNCIL

[29 November 1990]
[Original: English]

91. As participants in the Global Consultation, we fully support the conclusions and recommendations contained in its report, and hope the Commission on Human Rights will begin to implement them in a systematic manner. We also believe the Commission should ask the Economic and Social Council to direct United Nations operational programmes to take explicit account of General Comment No. 2 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in their project-cycle guidelines.

92. The basic objective should be to operationalize the concept of the right to development - that is, to bring it into the planning and implementation of the United Nations' operational activities. Achieving this will require (1) preliminary research on questions of measurement and cost; (2) regionalization of the methodologies used for monitoring and implementation; (3) grassroots awareness, mobilization, and participation; (4) administrative co-operation within the United Nations system; and (5) the establishment of a high-level expert body for monitoring, policy, and research. The present reply will focus on the first three points.

1. Preliminary research

93. Effective implementation and monitoring of the right to development will depend upon improved methods for measuring progress in the enjoyment of human rights. The proper question is never "if" people enjoy their fundamental rights, but "how much" and "how well" - that is, the enjoyment of human rights needs to be measured both quantitatively and qualitatively. This can be illustrated by reference to the right to freedom of speech which is contained in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. All societies place limitations on the exercise of this right, including punishment for "abusing" it. Both the extent, and nature of these limitations affect the quality of the right. Availability of the means of publishing and broadcasting opinions also profoundly affects the degree to which this right can be fully and effectively exercised.

94. As extreme forms of repression give way in many parts of the world to "democratization", the United Nations should indeed pay more attention to the quality of the enjoyment of rights, rather than their purported presence or absence.

95. A related issue is cost. We strenuously object to the argument, which has been made from time to time by some Governments in the Commission, that the realization of civil and political rights is without any financial cost to the State. The fair administration of jutice (ICCPR, Articles. 9, 10, 14, 15), for example, includes the management of police, courts and prisons. States must invest in training police and judges, supervising them adequately, and maintaining safe and healthy conditions for prisoners. Similarly the supervision of free and fair elections (ICCPR, Article 25) is a matter of considerable organization and expense.

96. The United Nations should assist States in finding solutions to problems in these fields which are not only effective, but also affordable - that is, efficient solutions. The international community should also be prepared to provide the financial means to ensure that even the poorest countries can implement these human rights solutions. This, in our view, lies at the heart of the notion of the right to development as a human right.

2. Regionalization

97. The quality and cost of the measures which may be taken to strengthen the realization of human rights will vary regionally. Different economic conditions, forms of social organization, values and culture, legal systems and institutional arrangements, all influence the choice of effective solutions and their financial requirements. This is highlighted by the growing number of regional intergovernmental human rights bodies. Rather than seeking or promoting universal standards of measurement, the United Nations should stimulate and support regional activity in the field of measurement. At the same time, members of the United Nations human rights supervisory bodies should be involved directly in any regional activities, to ensure the compatibility of standards as well as stimulating creativity and cross-fertilization.

3. Grassroots participation

98. To the extent that the enjoyment of a right is a qualitative and therefore subjective phenomenon, it is inappropriate to rely on "experts" to design standards for the measurement of progress. The people whose human rights are in question are in the best position to devise standards, and to judge whether they are able to exercise their rights effectively. Processes for standard-setting and monitoring must therefore be broadly participatory. Representative grassroots organizations should be involved in the discussion of measurement methods, both at the regional levels, and in the future development of country programmes, and selection of projects, by the United Nations Development Programme and related agencies. Mechanisms should be devised for including grassroots organizations formally in some phases of the discussions between national ministries and the United Nations resident representative.

99. In this respect, we draw the Commission's attention to operative paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 45/97 of 14 December 1990 entitled "Right to development" which was adopted without a vote, and which invites regional economic commissions to organize meetings with grassroots organizations as recommended by the report of the Global Consultation (para. 200).

100. With these considerations in mind, we encourage the Commission on Human Rights to recommend the approval by the Economic and Social Council of the following sequence of technical meetings:

(a) A technical seminar in each region, including experts from Governments, regional economic commissions, regional members of international and regional human rights bodies, United Nations resident representatives, and representative grassroots organizations, to discuss problems of the measurement of the quality of the exercise of rights, as well as issues of costs and resources;

(b) A high-level meeting of governmental and non-governmental experts, including policy-level representatives of United Nations operational programmes, to consider effective human rights co-ordination and monitoring mechanisms within the United Nations system, and the financial requirements of all countries meeting their basic obligations in the field of human rights.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

[3 January 1991]
[Original: English]

101. In the period following the Global Consultation on the realization of the right to development as a human right, organized by the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva from 8 to 12 January 1990, the Inter-Parliamentary Union continued to deal with a number of issues relating to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development.

102. On 29 October 1989, the Inter-Parliamentary Union sent a mission to observe the elections in Namibia, which worked in close co-operation with the United Nations Transition Assistance Group. In endorsing the report of the IPU observer mission, the governing bodies of the Union commended the role of the United Nations in the process leading to Namibia's independence and urged the international community to be ready to respond positively to calls for aid and development from independent Namibia, particularly in the fields of child health, education, literacy and training, and expressed the readiness of the IPU to provide such assistance to Namibia's new Parliament. It should be noted with satisfaction that in October 1990, the Parliament of Namibia took its rightful place alongside other Parliaments of the world, as a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

103. The 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in Nicosia from 30 March to 7 April 1990 considered a number of issues relating to the right to development. Having examined the threat which drug abuse and illicit drug production and trafficking pose to the health of the world population and to the political, economic and social structures of States, the Conference urged, inter alia, "all Government and International organizations to reduce trade barriers, expand trade and increase economic and technical aid in order to support alternative development plans, stabilize developing economies and encourage freedom, prosperity and democratic stability, all of which were essential to the success of national and international efforts to tackle all problems".

104. The Conference also took up the subject entitled "Employment, vocational training and new technologies and their relevance to promote sustainable development and social justice". It called, in particular, "on all countries to create and expand the legal prerequisites for guaranteeing the humane and socially just development of society by ensuring that technology develops in a humane way", and strongly urged "all Parliaments to promote the adoption of legislative measures ensuring the effective participation of workers, employers and Governments in the definition and implementation of training policy".

105. The full texts of the two main resolutions of the 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference were issued as official ECOSOC documents E/1990/NGO/5 and 7.

106. Welcoming the historic developments taking place in Europe, the Conference urged all Parliaments and Governments to strive to reinforce the new international climate by taking measures to promote peace and security, respect of human rights and democratic principles.

107. In order to examine in depth the prospects for disarmament, including its social and economic aspects, at a time of profound political changes in the world, the Inter-Parliamentary Union organized, with the support of the United Nations, an Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Disarmament which was held in Bonn from 21 to 25 May 1990.

108. This conference stressed "that the UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for assistance to the developing countries should be attained within the next five years; the debt burden should be addressed through massive debt relief; restraint should be exercised in respect of arms transfers to the Third World". It further considered "that adequate funding for UN peace-making and peace-keeping activities should be provided on a regular basis as a means of enhancing global security; funds should be allocated for the development of areas of the Third World which had been ravaged by economic problems".

109. The Inter-Parliamentary meetings (the sessions of the governing bodies and the 84th Inter-Parliamentary Conference) held in Punta del Este from 12 to 20 October 1990 similarly devoted much attention to the problem of development and adopted a number of important resolutions and decisions on this subject.

110. The Inter-Parliamentary Council decided to set up a Support Committee to the North/South Dialogue on Problems of Third World Debt with the mandate to foster a strong resolve within the Union for the early convening of an Inter-Parliamentary Conference on this question. The future Conference should, inter alia, foster reciprocal understanding by both creditor and debtor countries of each other's problems, as well as highlight the importance of broader involvement of citizens so that measures adopted were better understood and accepted. The Support Committee is also to seek to promote, through Parliament's members of the Union, the early convening of a high-level intergovernmental meeting on debt problems.

111. In connection with the World Summit on Children held at the United Nations in September 1990, the Inter-Parliamentary Council passed a special resolution calling, in particular, on each National Parliament to take the necessary steps through appropriate national mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the World Summit Plan and the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the extent that the application of the Plan and the Convention, at the national, regional and international levels, required action or a contribution on the part of its country.

112. The 84th Inter-Parliamentary Conference examined an item entitled "Eliminating colonialism and its consequences by strengthening co-operation between developed and developing countries and exploring different models of regional co-operation". The Conference resolution on this subject affirmed, notably, that "each sovereign State was entirely responsible for its own

development, while stressing the link between the success of a long-term development policy and the development of a democratic process guaranteeing individual freedom and basic human rights". It further stressed that "policies in favour of development, in order to be fully effective, must be accompanied by measures promoting social progress, with a view to protecting the very poor and enhancing the role of women in development".

113. Having examined another item entitled "Literacy and education as essential factors in the liberation of women and men to promote their participation in democratic life and as necessary instruments for development", the Conference stressed, among other things, the need to push ahead with establishing and strengthening democratic and parliamentary structures in all countries and called on all Parliaments and Governments to take steps to include educational activities on the value of democracy in their education, training and literacy programmes, which provided the basic knowledge of law and government that every individual needed in order to participate effectively in democratic life.

114. Finally, it should be noted that the Union's forthcoming activities in 1991 will provide further opportunities for the world parliamentary community to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION

[6 November 1990]
[Original: English]

115. In IPPF, we were impressed to see that the report contained the highlights of the discussion on women during the consultation. However, we feel that not enough focus was placed in the recommendations or in the resolution on the importance of personal development of women - half of the world's population - and its impact on the rate of development. In this, the role of reproductive rights - as expressed in the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - is paramount, but seems to have been ignored.

116. Throughout the world, it is women who bear the greatest burdens of physical labour, in both their productive and reproductive roles. If women are not freed of any successive burdens they bear, the greatest resource for development will be wasted. How can families be healthy and productive, how can development take place, if half the population, the very centre of family life, suffers severe social and economic discrimination, is over-worked, under-nourished, illiterate and constantly at the risk of unwanted pregnancies.

117. The report does recommend that countries should ratify the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; however, our research has shown that even where the countries have ratified the Convention, much still needs to be done by countries to fulfil their obligations. The wall chart containing the highlights of the findings is enclosed for your information as is the brochure on Family Planning as a Basic Human Right.

118. We strongly feel that the resolution should reflect the development of women as a priority as well as their basic human right to family planning.

[The wall chart and brochure referred to above are available for consultation in the secretariat.]

WORLD MUSLIM CONGRESS

[18 November 1990]
[Original: English]

119. The World Muslim Congress notes with appreciation the United Nations Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/18 of 23 February 1990, entitled, "The right to development" and the report of the Global Consultation on the realization of the right to development as a human right, as per the Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/45 of 6 March 1989.

120. Bearing in mind all such and similar United Nations resolutions the World Muslim Congress presents the undermentioned views on behalf of the 1,200 million Muslim people of the world, as follows:

(a) Aware that a new world order is now urgently required for the entire world in order to ensure peace, security and all-round development of all nations. Reaffirms that it must be kept in the order of the thing that the stability of the world, politically, economically, socially or culturally cannot be found without the participation of the Muslim World;

(b) Mindful that various concerned organizations have thus far striven for this goal of establishing a new world order in the past several years, however, most of their calls for a new world order have not yet met the expectations of the entire world, because they concentrated on change in the outside world, structural change of the environment from the perspective of limited national and regional interest, instead of change within man. Reiterates that what is needed is total change: a change within man as well as in his social environment. The starting point of this change must be the heart and soul of mankind - his/her perception of reality and of his/her own place and mission in life;

(c) Reaffirms that the World Muslim Congress's strategy for the establishment of such a development consists of inviting all human beings to the Islamic path of peace, equity, ethics, co-operation, co-existence, development and progress of all mankind irrespective of their colour, race, language, nationality, religion, party, historical or ethnic origin, as Islam seeks man's total welfare - moral, social, economical and political;

(d) Requests that the United Nations, a world actor, needs a new vision and direction. Herein the World Muslim Congress feels that the establishment of the new and equitable economic order on the basis of the Declaration on the Right of Development proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986.

121. We must bear in mind that mankind on the eve of the 21st century is faced by a whirlpool of conflicts. The major anxiety is the nation States' power struggle and the conflict between intellectual, political, economic and social orientation. The material and scientific advancement of our enlightened world is not in harmony nor balanced with its moral values and spiritual heritage. Ethics and morals have no part to play in the modern human being's life.

122. Adhering to the Islamic principles of love, peace, tolerance, justice, equity, co-operation, co-existence, dignity and respect of mankind, the World Muslim Congress is convinced that it is man himself and not nature nor material things, which can make the world either a paradise or hell. Our planet holds enough for everybody's needs, but all the riches on the lands and in the seas will never be sufficient to satisfy everybody's greed.

123. Reaffirming the principles of Islam and its universal human values, the World Muslim Congress emphasizes the need to set up a new world order based on the unity and equality of the human family and human interest without any discrimination, and re-emphasizes the right of all human beings to enjoy life in dignity, freedom and justice, as well as equal opportunities and facilities for development. The World Muslim Congress reaffirms the necessity of all nations and peoples to co-operate in efforts for the good of mankind, and in the prevention of injustice and violation of the basic human rights; for the support of all the basic principles on which the United Nations has been established for the benefit of human society and permanent peace, and for welcoming United Nations endeavours towards the protection of human rights in all its facets, and honourable freedom and way of life for all mankind.

124. The World Muslim Congress requests that the present socio-economic system be re-set so as to stress moderation and avoid excess; and that an equal and prosperous society can be developed through profit and loss sharing instead of a purely interest-based system. That inequities in trade, industrialization, agricultural methods and production, energy requirement be removed and readjusted and furthermore the means to rectify the inbalances be not only advocated but provided also so as to achieve meaningful development of all nations and people.

125. Recommends that the concept of universal and equal brotherhood be adhered to rather than relying upon the unpractical concept of balance of polarized political powers, military position or economic status.

126. The World Muslim Congress requests that the ethical, moral, religious and spiritual values be considered and given its due importance in the implementation and enhancement of the right to development within the United Nations system.

WORLD ORGANIZATION AGAINST TORTURE

[9 November 1990]
[Original: English]

127. The documents submitted are of great interest to us, as we ourselves have been studying this topic. The cases we have been receiving illustrate well how closely interwoven development and respect for human rights really are.

128. This year we already began dealing concretly with the prevailing human rights situation in the least developed countries. For the occasion of the 2nd Paris Conference on the Least Developed Countries we published a report entitled Development and Human Rights in the Least Developed Countries, a copy of which you will find in the annex.

129. In this report, our organization expressed its hopes that the donor countries would substantially increase the amount of aid they grant to the poorest of the developing countries, but also urged most strongly that the issue of respect for human rights be viewed as one of the factors of development.

130. In the coming year, we plan to devote a conference to this issue. It will be open to Non-Governmental Organizations from the world over, but we hope that we shall be able to count on the vast experience acquired by the United Nations in this regard.

[The report referred to above is available for consultation in the secretariat files.]